

PRIORITY APPARATUS HAVING PROGRAMMABLE NODE DWELL TIMEABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Apparatus for determining priority of access to a bus
by nodes in a group of nodes attached to the bus. For
purposes of determining priority, the apparatus
arranges the nodes in a circular configuration and
selects one of the nodes as the "anchor node". The
10 anchor node has the highest priority and the priorities
of the other nodes are determined by their positions in
the circle relative to the anchor node. Each node
includes a presettable counter for indicating a number
of times that a node may access the bus before the
15 highest priority is rotated to another node. After a
device represented by one of the nodes accesses the bus
for a predetermined number of accesses the current
anchor node ceases being the anchor node and the next
node in the circle becomes the new anchor node. The
20 priorities of the nodes change to reflect the new
location of the anchor node.

25

30

1